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Science and of the national scientific societies affiliated with it, which it has been planned to hold this year in Boston, has been transferred to Baltimore in order to reduce as much as possible the need for traveling and to be near Washington, which has become the center of scientific activity of the country. It is planned that the programs of the association and of the affiliated societies shall be mainly directed to questions of national welfare, national efficiency and national defense; they will demonstrate the value of science and of the work of scientific men to the country. Dr. L. O. Howard, the permanent secretary of the association, under the date of October 16, addressed the following letter to the secretaries of the affiliated societies:

Something of a complication has arisen in connection with the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the affiliated societies.

The Johns Hopkins University has taken on the Students Army Training Corps and, therefore, its courses are largely revised and its faculty is very busy. Their Christmas vacation runs only from the 22d to the 29th of December, both dates inclusive.

I had expected to be able to utilize the facilities of Goucher College, but this institution has now been closed by the epidemic of influenza and will probably have to be in session during Christmas week.

The present situation leaves for our meeting dates the 23d and 24th (then comes Christmas Day) and the 26th to the 28th, these being the only dates in which certain of the lecture rooms of Johns Hopkins can be used by us.

The committee on policy of the association has decided to adhere to its decision to meet in Baltimore, but there must be some change in plans, both on account of the small size and number of lecture rooms available and the fact that there are practically no hotel accommodations. Members will have to rely almost entirely upon lodging-houses. It is obvious that for certain of

the affiliated societies the 23d and 24th should be selected and, for others, the 26th to the 28th, since rooms vacated on the night of the 24th can be used by members of the affiliated societies meeting on the 26th to the 28th.

It is planned to have the opening meeting of the American Association on the night of Thursday, December 26, although meetings of the sections may be held during the day of the 26th.

### SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Major Alfred Reginald Allen, instructor in neurology in the University of Pennsylvania, killed in France; of Captain George S. Mathers, of the McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases, and of Lieutenant Admont Halsey Clark, M.C., U. S. Army, assistant professor of pathology in Johns Hopkins University.

THE Prince of Wales has accepted the position of patron of the Ramsay Memorial Fund, founded in November, 1916, to raise £100,000 as a memorial to the late Sir William Ramsay. The committee has already collected £37,000, and subscriptions from oversea committees will probably bring the total to £50,000. It is proposed to raise the remaining £50,000 by a million shilling fund, now opened with a donation of 1,000 shillings from the Prince of Wales. Already over 10,500 shillings have been subscribed. The fund will provide Ramsay Research Fellowships and a Ramsay Memorial Laboratory of Engineering Chemistry in connection with University College, London. Donations from one shilling upwards should be sent to the honorable treasurer, Lord Glenconner, at University College, London.

ACCORDING to a press dispatch from Paris Dr. Alexis Carrel, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical

Research, was recently seeking a building at Saint Cloud suitable for a laboratory and workshop near certain hospital centers. He found the house he wanted in a park full of splendid trees. The property belonged to André Bernheim, who had refused all offers to rent it on account of the family souvenirs it contained and the art treasures. When Mr. Bernheim heard of Dr. Carrel's wish to lease his house he said: "Tell Dr. Carrel that I am greatly flattered at his choice and that the Verger and its surroundings are at his service." When the question of rent was raised, Mr. Bernheim declared, "No, no, a scientist owes nothing to anybody. It is I who am honored."